

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL

March 11, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Present: Ron Van Kirk
Colleen Gallagher
Katie Gallagher
Kevin Tanski
Tom Murphy
Kathy Pucci
Tony DeMarco

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance.

DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Tanski, second by C.Gallagher to approve the minutes of February 25, 2013. **VOTE RESULTED:** Approve: Yes: VanKirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, Pucci, DeMarco. No: None. **(APPROVED)**

PUBLIC SESSION:

Cynthia Walker, Superintendent of Brooklyn City Schools, invited people to call her if they need any information on supporting the May 7th bond and levy issue. She is standing for the School District and the Board of Education to invite people with questions to come to them so they can become informed and understand the need. She asked for people to rally around the schools and the dedicated teachers, staff and administrators. She can be reached at 216-485-8110. Thanked the Mayor for his support and endorsement of the bond and levy issue; and also Councilman DeMarco. Asked any Councilmember with further questions to call or meet with her or Marti Ferian.

Alexandria Badza, of 8989 Trail Run, an 8th grade student, expressed her hope for the passage of the bond and levy issue, for herself and 1400 students, which will create one campus with improvements to the school facilities, enhancing learning experience and the city. The campus will give proper class size space; improve technology, security and safety systems; and proper handicapped accessibility; all day and evening activity for students and residents. If the levy does not pass there will be reductions in all sports, band, choral, art, foreign language, theater, computers, physical education, family and consumer science, engineering and more. It could affect the need for additional college standards, possible scholarships, loss of jobs, and only the core classes of math, science, social studies and English, with shortened school days, and no more field trips. She said the city needs a safe, functioning school with more access to technology to prepare students for the future. The daily cost of the levy is 77 cents, less for senior citizens. Visit www.brooklynschoollevy.org for more information, call the Board at 216-485-8100, and flyers available. Asked for a yes vote on May 7th.

Marissa Hahn, junior at High School, spoke on the District's music program, which she began in elementary school. Has participated in marching band, concert band, jazz band, pit band, Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony, Kent State Honors Band, and PAC 10 Honors Band. Has just participated in the spring musical. Her musical resume will be looked at by potential colleges for scholarship opportunities, which would be greatly diminished if the music program is cut. Would hate to see teachers and programs cut. Has been taught musically, socially and morally as well as academics. She asked for support to keep the programs going.

Michael Byndas, senior at High School, involved in National Honor Society, varsity basketball and soccer, active in the music program as president of the band, been a member of the wind ensemble, marching band, and jazz ensemble and pit orchestra. Also participated in the musical. His participation in the music program will help to make college more affordable for him. He wants to see the music department continue,

also in producing successful students, for now and future students; but it can only continue with the support of the levy and bond issue.

Kyle Houston, 10th grade student at the High School, also a participating in concert and marching bands, pit orchestra, jazz ensemble, and took part in the band competition this year. Feels these experiences will pay off in his future. Expressed concerns for not being able to experience these programs if the levy does not pass. Motivation for school and academics will fall without these programs. Space is needed in the buildings, and repairs made, leaks repaired; better equipment and technology can be purchased, for classrooms and sports. He wants the same opportunities for himself and future students. Asked for support for the levy.

Ryan Kelber, resident and Athletic Director for Brooklyn Schools, said there are currently 10 sports offered, with over 250 participants in three seasons. Student athletes perform better academically than non-student athletes, with over 50 student athletes with 3.0 GPAs or better. The athletes have a positive outlet after the school day ends, where they build character, learn life lessons, teamwork and responsibility, and gain memorable experiences. The failure of the levy would drastically weaken the supports within the school system. Schools are the heart of the city, and people look at that when moving to a city. Without that Brooklyn will mean nothing. The schools need to be the foundation for the city to get back on track and become the city it once was, which can happen with the support of the Council for the levy.

Lynn Wieland, of 4201 Dawncliff, said she has become more involved in the community since she retired. Though she doesn't know much about the levy, she knows a lot of taxes go to the schools, and schools are extremely important. Applauded the students who spoke and wrote about the levy, and recognized the need for scholarships. A lot of the problems we're struggling with now are due to huge state cuts, it's not just here in Brooklyn and a local problem. There is more work to be done, not just locally, but to be heard at the state level, as they have a role in paying for the education of our children. Asked people to let the legislators know how you feel.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS & BOARDS:

Finance Committee (Councilwoman Pucci): Reported there was a work session on Feb. 25th for a presentation by Johnson Controls and the Sustainability Advisory Committee relating to potential energy savings through HB 300. Thanked everyone for their efforts. We are in a current energy savings improvement contract through the Rec Center and Natatorium, and there is information being compiled on that current agreement to be give to Council. There was a budget work session March 4th, from 6-11 p.m. Thanked Dir. Esarey for her efforts, planning and preparation for the process; and also directors and department heads for their efforts; and Councilmembers for their review and discussion. The process went very well, a consensus reached, with Ordinance 2013-8 (permanent budget) on first reading tonight. The General Fund budget is \$15,733,541 and Capital Improvement is \$4,523,896. It includes \$1.6M for the city's portion of Ridge Rd. reconstruction. A bond anticipation note will be issued for approximately \$1.375M, planned to be paid down in five years, for the roof at City Hall, 2013 streets program, and the west parking lot at the Recreation Center. The Finance Committee met at 6:30, and recommended authorizing: the Fire Dept. to trade in equipment; adopt Ordinances 2013-5, 2013-7, 2013-9.

Recreation Board (Councilman Tanski): Brooklyn Youth Baseball, in conjunction with Up To Bat, is registering for t-ball and baseball for boys and girls, deadline April 6th. The next meeting is Monday, March 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Court room.

Zoning Bd. of Appeals (Comm. Fitzgerald): The Board will meet March 21st, for old business, at 4729 Fairway for a variance to install a 6 foot privacy fence, placed on the rear property line rather than 18" away from property line and existing fence.

Planning Commission (Councilwoman K.Gallagher): The Commission met March 7th and approved a request from Sign Vision to install a 151 sq. foot illuminated sign at TJ Maxx, 4794 Ridge Road; and approved a request from Cleveland Bible Baptist Church for an 8-parcel lot consolidation at 4431 Tiedeman (on condition of re-submittal and approval of recommendations of Courtney Engineering.)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Ron Van Kirk: Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and the speakers on their concerns about the schools. There is an important decision to make May 7th, and he hopes residents get all information and consider it strongly before they vote. Echoed comments on the budget session, and also thanked Dir. Esarey for preparing Council, and felt the meeting went very well, with an open mind, and a good budget for the upcoming year. Concerns, such as scaling back expenses, pushing forward with economic development and finding a marketing director and drawing businesses into Brooklyn, are ongoing.

Colleen Gallagher: Friday, March 15th at 7 p.m. the Democratic Club invites everyone to hear guest speaker Superintendent Cynthia Walker, speaking on the combined operating levy/bond issue on May 7th ballot. Residents need to get informed, and the schools are facing serious cuts. She announced she will be endorsing the levy. Congratulated Kevin Pucci for winning the state finals for the St. Ignatius Debate Team, and asked the Mayor to have a Proclamation at the next meeting for him. Commented on the budget work session, with everyone having an open mind, working together, and resulting in a productive meeting. The General Fund ended 2012 with \$6,022,706.20 – over \$1.7M more than the original estimated amount, the difference due to American Greetings not yet exiting the city, and departments coming in \$470,000 under budget. The city will continue to be faced with economic challenges, and needs to strengthen its relationship with local businesses, but not remain complacent about future economic growth opportunities. There needs to be a stronger relationship with businesses and the schools, with a common goal with everyone to succeed and prosper as a community. Thanked Dir. Esarey for her hard work, on the budget and every day. Also thanked the Mayor, directors and staff for services provided to residents; and all who serve on Fire and Police Departments for their daily commitment to protect and serve.

Katie Gallagher: Asked Dir. Verba if he heard from ODOT on the sound barrier application, and he replied he has not yet. She asked to be updated when he hears from them. Informed Chief Zemek of a complain about the waterway behind Key Bank being a neon green color, and asked if he knew what caused it. Chief Zemek said upon examination it is suspected coolant/anti-freeze was leaked into it from the Cleveland sewer system. He said if it is a reoccurring issue that he be notified so they can zero in on where it's coming from. Asked Dir. Esarey, based on a previous discussion, if she had a number for an increase in the Capital budget percentage amount. Dir. Esarey responded that she is comfortable with the percentage as it is right now, until we know how much American Greetings affects us when they pull out, and continue building up as much as possible in the General Fund to cover operating expenses. Thanked the Mayor, Finance Dir., and all directors and Councilmembers for working together and coming to an agreement on the budget. Thanked all the students that spoke.

Kevin Tanski: Happy for a full room, including youths. Youth Opportunities has contacted him relating to part-time summer jobs in the city, for youths in our area. These wages would be paid for by Youth Opportunities for a certain period. Registration is done on-line at www.youthopportunities.org, by March 29th at noon. Information needed includes social security number, e-mail address, emergency contact information. The number of jobs is limited. Further information is available on their website. Informational flyers are available at the Rec Center, and posted at the Library. Encouraged Brooklyn youth to sign up.

Tom Murphy: Thanked students who spoke. Supports Mr. Tanski's work on getting youth jobs for the summer, and suggested getting information to the high school.

Tony DeMarco: As a proud graduate of Brooklyn High School, and former member of the band and other extracurricular groups, thanked everyone for coming. Understands voting is personal for every resident, but said he is supportive of the levy. Our community is facing what other communities across the county and state are facing. Suggested asking how much you value an independent public school system; and if you do, then be supporting of the levy; and if you don't, then your choice is to not support it. A lot of misinformation gets around; so he suggests for any questions or information to contact the Superintendent, Marti Ferian, or a School Board member to be fully informed on the important decision of the future of our school system, and the future of our city. Thanked everyone for coming and encouraged them to come back for future meetings.

Kathy Pucci: Has previously spoken about concerns of the number of our young people who have died from drug related cases, and spoken to Mrs. Walker about a joint community awareness night in the city. A Brooklyn awareness night will be Wednesday, May 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. More information will be out as it gets publicized and posted on the websites. Encouraged everyone to attend. Also thanked the night's speakers, especially students. She stated her support of the levy, encouraging other residents to support it. The revenue is declining, through no fault of the schools; part of it attributed to some large businesses getting reductions in property values, and the property tax collection rate being dropped. A strong school system is vital to the city being a strong community, and there is an obligation as a community to provide public education for its young people. Encouraged everyone, with questions or concerns on any aspect of this, get answers directly from the Superintendent, Treasurer or School Board member. There will be a literature drop Saturday, March 16th, at 8:30 a.m., meeting in the Auditorium.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Balbier: Reiterated about the Awareness Night, which will be a panel discussion, with a Brooklyn family telling their story, the Brooklyn Police, County Prosecutor, and a recovery story from a Brooklyn family. Gave some statistics from the Police Department's 2012 annual report: the jail handled 1244 prisoners (5.6% more than previous year); filed on 91 juveniles; DARE covered 120 students at the Middle School; received 26,748 police calls; made 668 misdemeanor arrests; 97 felony arrests; and handled 503 traffic accidents. From the Service Department's 2012 annual report: picked up 3,229 tons of solid waste; 661 tons recyclables, bring in \$13,969; handled 1,203 tons of compost. The Fire Dept. last month had 45 fire runs and 122 rescue runs. Attended the grand opening of the Wal-Mart Superstore on Feb. 27th; and a couple days later the opening of U.S. Bank inside Wal-Mart. On Feb. 28th met with 30 Mayors at Cleveland City Hall for a press conference voicing objection to House Bill 5 (municipal income taxes related), which he thinks is a bad move. The inner ring suburbs (19 suburbs) met this morning and will hire a lobbyist to go to Columbus and speak on their behalf, so the state doesn't do this. 70-75% of our money comes from city income tax. The Senior Center will have a pasta dinner, made by Aldo's, on April 28th, \$4 for children under six, \$8 for seniors. The Spring Easter Egg Hunt will be March 23rd at 11 a.m., registration at 10:30, at the Senior Center, for resident children under age 6, rain or shine. In regard to the school levy, he said schools mean everything. His former elementary school is now a vacant lot, and it affected him greatly. He is a graduate of Brooklyn High School, and figures in his family 14 have graduated from Brooklyn. Gives credit to those students who spoke. He said he is behind the levy 100%. But he recognizes there are people who cannot afford it, and suggests they vote as they are able to. He urges everyone to vote for it.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Fire Chief Zemek: Said in the past 17 months there have been two fatalities due to home fires in Brooklyn. In June 2011, Council passed legislation requiring photoelectric detectors in every residence and business. Existing detectors must be replaced within 10 years. The photoelectric recognizes any change within lighting, recognizing early fire, possibly 10-30 minutes early warning, with no false alarms, or cooking alarms. Stresses and pleads with residents to check their detectors to make sure they are working, there is at least one on every floor of the home, and as they get replaced to replace them with the photoelectric detector. Contact him with questions. Council President Pucci added it is time also to replace batteries, as the time change has occurred.

Acting Bldg. Comm. Fitzgerald: The annual meeting of the Community Reinvestment Council and the Community Reinvestment Housing Council will be Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room at City Hall.

REQUESTS:

A request from the Fire Chief for authorization for a trade-in allowance offer of \$800 (old cutters) towards a new hydraulic rescue cutter. **MOTION** by C.Gallagher, second by Murphy to authorize the trade-in. **VOTE RESULTED:** Approve: Yes: VanKirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, Pucci, DeMarco. No: None. (**APPROVED**)

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE 2013-5: Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Juvenile Diversion Coordinator. **MOTION** by VanKirk, second by Tanski to suspend the rules. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Suspend the Rules:* Yes: VanKirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, Pucci, DeMarco. No: None. *Adopt:* Yes: VanKirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, Pucci, DeMarco. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

ORDINANCE 2013-7: Authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreements with Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC, Inc.) to provide services for the Sanitary Landfill in an amount not to exceed \$15,840. **MOTION** by C.Gallagher, second by VanKirk to suspend the rules. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Suspend the Rules:* Yes: VanKirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, Pucci, DeMarco. No: None. *Adopt:* Yes: VanKirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, Pucci, DeMarco. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

ORDINANCE 2013-8: Annual Appropriations. To make appropriations for current and other expenditures of the City of Brooklyn, State of Ohio, for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. **(FIRST READING)**

ORDINANCE 2013-9: Authorizing the purchase of two plows and hitches from Gledhill Road Machinery for \$23,424.70. **MOTION** by C.Gallagher, second by Tanski to suspend the rules. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Suspend the Rules:* Yes: VanKirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, Pucci, DeMarco. No: None. *Adopt:* Yes: VanKirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, Pucci, DeMarco. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

Council President Pucci said as she was coming into the Council Chambers she was given a stack of letters addressed to the Mayor and Councilmembers in support of the school levy, which the Clerk will have if anyone is interested in seeing them.

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Tanski, second by VanKirk to adjourn. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Adjourn:* Yes: VanKirk, C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, Pucci, DeMarco. No: None. **(ADJOURNED)**

Asst. Clerk of Council

President of Council